AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 5779

OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON OF TEXAS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

I	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
2	This Act may be cited as the "Fiscal Commission Act
3	of 2024".
4	SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
5	In this Act:
6	(1) Co-chair.—The term "co-chair" means an
7	individual appointed to serve as a co-chair of the
8	Fiscal Commission under section 3(a)(3)(B)(i).
9	(2) FISCAL COMMISSION.—The term "Fiscal
10	Commission" means the commission established
11	under section 3(a).
12	(3) Implementing Bill.—The term "imple-
13	menting bill" means a bill or joint resolution con-
14	sisting solely of the legislative text the Fiscal Com-
15	mission approves and submits under clauses (i) and
16	(v), respectively, of section 3(a)(2)(B).
17	(4) Outside expert.—The term "outside ex-
18	pert" is an individual who is not an elected official

1	or an officer or employee of the Federal Government
2	or of any State.
3	SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL COMMISSION.
4	(a) Establishment of Fiscal Commission.—
5	(1) Establishment.—
6	(A) In general.—Not later than 60 days
7	after the date of enactment of this Act, there
8	is established in Congress a Fiscal Commission.
9	(B) Goals.—The goals of the Commission
10	shall be to educate, and bring awareness to, the
11	American public about the fiscal path the Na-
12	tion is on, including—
13	(i) educating the American people so
14	they understand the fiscal state of the Na-
15	tion and the cost of not addressing such
16	state; and
17	(ii) informing the American people
18	about the deterioration of our Nation's fis-
19	cal health, and that the debt poses a sig-
20	nificant risk to the Nation's long-term fis-
21	cal sustainability with implications for fu-
22	ture generations.
23	(2) Duties.—
24	(A) Improve fiscal situation.—

1	(i) In General.—The Fiscal Com-
2	mission shall identify policies to—
3	(I) meaningfully improve the
4	long-term fiscal condition of the Fed-
5	eral Government, including reducing
6	the debt and deficit;
7	(II) achieve a sustainable ratio of
8	the public debt of the Federal Govern-
9	ment to the gross domestic product of
10	the United States, which shall be not
11	more than 100 percent, by fiscal year
12	2039; and
13	(III) improve the solvency of
14	Federal programs for which a Federal
15	trust fund exists for a period of at
16	least 75 years.
17	(ii) Requirements.—In carrying out
18	clause (i), the Fiscal Commission shall, to
19	the extent practicable, consider the budg-
20	etary effects of changes in economic out-
21	put, employment, capital stock, and other
22	macroeconomic variables resulting from
23	public and private investments and propose
24	recommendations that meaningfully im-

1	prove the long-term fiscal condition of the
2	Federal Government, including—
3	(I) changes to address the cur-
4	rent levels of discretionary appropria-
5	tions, direct spending, and revenues
6	and the gap between current revenues
7	and expenditures of the Federal Gov-
8	ernment; and
9	(II) changes to address the
10	growth of discretionary appropria-
11	tions, direct spending, and revenues
12	and the gap between the projected
13	revenues and expenditures of the Fed-
14	eral Government.
15	(iii) Recommendations of commit-
16	TEES.—Not later than 60 days after the
17	date described in paragraph (1), each com-
18	mittee of the Senate and the House of
19	Representatives may transmit to the Fiscal
20	Commission any recommendations of the
21	committee relating to changes in law to
22	further the duties described in clause (ii).
23	(iv) Interim Report.—The Fiscal
24	Commission may meet to consider, and
25	vote on, an interim report on—

1	(I) any findings, conclusions, or
2	recommendations of the Fiscal Com-
3	mission described in subparagraph
4	(A)(i);
5	(II) any findings or recommenda-
6	tions with respect to carrying out the
7	goals described in paragraph (1)(B);
8	and
9	(III) as the Fiscal Commission
10	determines appropriate, any findings
11	resulting from any hearing held or
12	evidence received by the Commission.
13	(B) Report identified policies.—
14	(i) In General.—Notwithstanding
15	paragraph $(4)(D)(ii)(II)$, and consistent
16	with clause (vi), not later than December
17	12, 2024, the Fiscal Commission shall
18	meet to consider, and vote on—
19	(I) a report that contains a de-
20	tailed statement of the findings, con-
21	clusions, and recommendations of the
22	Fiscal Commission described in sub-
23	paragraph (A)(i) and the estimate of
24	the Congressional Budget Office re-

1	quired under paragraph (4)(D)(ii);
2	and
3	(II) legislative language to carry
4	out the recommendations of the Fiscal
5	Commission in the report described in
6	subclause (I), which shall include a
7	statement of the economic and budg-
8	etary effects of the recommendations.
9	(ii) Approval of report and leg-
10	ISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—A report and legis-
11	lative language of the Fiscal Commission
12	under clause (i) shall require the approval
13	of a majority of the members of the Fiscal
14	Commission, provided that such majority
15	shall be required to include not less than
16	2 members of the Fiscal Commission ap-
17	pointed by members of the Republican
18	Party and 2 members appointed by mem-
19	bers of the Democratic party.
20	(iii) Additional views.—
21	(I) IN GENERAL.—A member of
22	the Fiscal Commission who gives no-
23	tice of an intention to file supple-
24	mental, minority, or additional views
25	at the time of the final Fiscal Com-

1	mission vote on the approval of the re-
2	port and legislative language of the
3	Fiscal Commission under clause (i)
4	shall be entitled to 3 days to file those
5	views in writing with the staff director
6	of the Fiscal Commission.
7	(II) Inclusion in report.—
8	Views filed under subclause (I) shall
9	be included in the report of the Fiscal
10	Commission under clause (i) and
11	printed in the same volume, or part
12	thereof, and such inclusion shall be
13	noted on the cover of the report, ex-
14	cept that, in the absence of timely no-
15	tice, the report may be printed and
16	transmitted immediately without such
17	views.
18	(iv) Report and legislative lan-
19	GUAGE TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the
20	approval or disapproval of a report and
21	legislative language under clause (i) by the
22	Fiscal Commission, the Fiscal Commission
23	shall promptly, and not more than 24
24	hours after the approval or disapproval or,
25	if timely notice is given under clause (iii),

1	not more than 24 hours after additional
2	views are filed under such clause, make the
3	report, the legislative language, and a
4	record of the vote on the report and legis-
5	lative language available to the public.
6	(v) Submission of report and leg-
7	ISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—If a report and leg-
8	islative language are approved by the Fis-
9	cal Commission under clause (i), not later
10	than 3 days after the date on which the re-
11	port and legislative language are made
12	available to the public under clause (iv),
13	the Fiscal Commission shall submit the re-
14	port and legislative language to the Presi-
15	dent, the Vice President, the Speaker of
16	the House of Representatives, and the ma-
17	jority and minority leaders of each House
18	of Congress.
19	(vi) Extension.—The Fiscal Com-
20	mission may extend the deadline set forth
21	in clause (i) to May 15, 2025, if the Fiscal
22	Commission determines that additional
23	time is necessary to complete their duties
24	under this Act. Such extension shall re-
25	quire the approval of a majority of the

1	members of the Fiscal Commission, pro-
2	vided that such majority shall be required
3	to include not less than 2 members of the
4	Fiscal Commission appointed by members
5	of the Republican Party and 2 members
6	appointed by members of the Democratic
7	party.
8	(C) Public awareness campaign.—Not
9	later than 30 days after the date the Fiscal
10	Commission submits the report under para-
11	graph (2)(B)(v), the Fiscal Commission shall
12	complete a national campaign to increase public
13	awareness and education with respect to the fis-
14	cal condition of the Federal Government.
15	(3) Membership.—
16	(A) In General.—The Fiscal Commission
17	shall be composed of 16 members appointed
18	not later than 14 days after the date described
19	in paragraph (1) and with due consideration to
20	chairs and ranking minority members of the
21	committees and subcommittees of subject mat-
22	ter jurisdiction (as applicable), as follows:
23	(i) 3 individuals from among the
24	Members of the Senate, and 1 outside ex-

1	pert, appointed by the majority leader of
2	the Senate.
3	(ii) 3 individuals from among the
4	Members of the Senate, and 1 outside ex-
5	pert, appointed by the minority leader of
6	the Senate.
7	(iii) 3 individuals from among the
8	Members of the House of Representatives,
9	and 1 outside expert, appointed by the
10	Speaker of the House of Representatives.
11	(iv) 3 individuals from among the
12	Members of the House of Representatives,
13	and 1 outside expert, appointed by the mi-
14	nority leader of the House of Representa-
15	tives.
16	(B) Co-chairs.—
17	(i) In general.—Not later than 14
18	days after the date described in paragraph
19	(1), with respect to the Fiscal Commis-
20	sion—
21	(I) the leadership of the Senate
22	and House of Representatives of the
23	same political party as the President
24	shall appoint 1 individual from among
25	the members of the Fiscal Commis-

1	sion who shall serve as a co-chair of
2	the Fiscal Commission; and
3	(II) the leadership of the Senate
4	and House of Representatives of the
5	opposite political party as the Presi-
6	dent shall appoint 1 individual from
7	among the members of the Fiscal
8	Commission who shall serve as a co-
9	chair of the Fiscal Commission.
10	(ii) STAFF DIRECTOR.—With respect
11	to the Fiscal Commission, the co-chairs of
12	the Fiscal Commission, acting jointly, shall
13	hire the staff director of the Fiscal Com-
14	mission.
15	(C) Period of appointment.—
16	(i) IN GENERAL.—The members of
17	the Fiscal Commission shall be appointed
18	for the life of the Fiscal Commission.
19	(ii) Vacancy.—
20	(I) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy
21	in the Fiscal Commission shall not af-
22	fect the powers of the Fiscal Commis-
23	sion, but shall be filled not later than
24	14 days after the date on which the
25	vacancy occurs, in the same manner

1	as the original appointment was
2	made.
3	(II) Ineligible members.—If a
4	member of the Fiscal Commission who
5	was appointed as a Member of the
6	Senate or the House Representatives
7	ceases to be a Member of the Senate
8	or the House of Representatives, as
9	applicable—
10	(aa) the member shall no
11	longer be a member of the Fiscal
12	Commission; and
13	(bb) a vacancy in the Fiscal
14	Commission exists.
15	(4) Administration.—
16	(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the
17	Fiscal Commission, to enable the Fiscal Com-
18	mission to exercise the powers, functions, and
19	duties of the Fiscal Commission, there are au-
20	thorized to be disbursed by the Senate the ac-
21	tual and necessary expenses of the Fiscal Com-
22	mission approved by the co-chairs of the Fiscal
23	Commission, subject to the rules and regula-
24	tions of the Senate.

1	(B) Expenses.—With respect to the Fis-
2	cal Commission, in carrying out the functions of
3	the Fiscal Commission, the Fiscal Commission
4	is authorized to incur expenses in the same
5	manner and under the same conditions as the
6	Joint Economic Committee is authorized under
7	section 11(d) of the Employment Act of 1946
8	(15 U.S.C. 1024(d)).
9	(C) Quorum.—With respect to the Fiscal
10	Commission, 7 members of the Fiscal Commis-
11	sion shall constitute a quorum for purposes of
12	voting, meeting, and holding hearings. Outside
13	experts shall not count for purposes of deter-
14	mining whether there is a quorum under this
15	subparagraph.
16	(D) Voting.—
17	(i) Proxy voting.—No proxy voting
18	shall be allowed on behalf of any member
19	of the Fiscal Commission.
20	(ii) Congressional budget office
21	ESTIMATES.—
22	(I) In general.—The Director
23	of the Congressional Budget Office
24	shall, with respect to the legislative
25	language of the Fiscal Commission

1	under paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II), provide
2	to the Fiscal Commission—
3	(aa) estimates of the legisla-
4	tive language in accordance with
5	sections 308(a) and 201(f) of the
6	Congressional Budget Act of
7	1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a) and
8	601(f)); and
9	(bb) information on the
10	budgetary effects of the legisla-
11	tive language on the long-term
12	fiscal outlook.
13	(II) LIMITATION.—The Fiscal
14	Commission may not vote on any
15	version of the report, recommenda-
16	tions, or legislative language of the
17	Fiscal Commission under paragraph
18	(2)(B)(i) unless the estimates and in-
19	formation described in subclause (I)
20	of this clause are made available for
21	consideration by all members of the
22	Fiscal Commission not later than 48
23	hours before that vote, as certified by
24	the co-chairs of the Fiscal Commis-
25	sion.

1	(iii) Limitations on outside ex-
2	PERTS.—Only members of the Fiscal Com-
3	mission who are Members of the Senate or
4	the House of Representatives may vote on
5	any matter of the Fiscal Commission. An
6	outside expert serving as a member of the
7	Fiscal Commission shall be a nonvoting
8	member.
9	(E) MEETINGS.—
10	(i) Initial meeting.—Not later than
11	45 days after the date described in para-
12	graph (1), the Fiscal Commission shall
13	hold the first meeting of the Fiscal Com-
14	mission.
15	(ii) Agenda.—For each meeting of
16	the Fiscal Commission, the co-chairs of the
17	Fiscal Commission shall provide an agenda
18	to the members of the Fiscal Commission
19	not later than 48 hours before the meeting.
20	(F) Hearings.—
21	(i) IN GENERAL.—The Fiscal Com-
22	mission may, for the purpose of carrying
23	out this section, hold such hearings, sit
24	and act at such times and places, require
25	attendance of witnesses and production of

1	books, papers, and documents, take such
2	testimony, receive such evidence, and ad-
3	minister such oaths as the Fiscal Commis-
4	sion considers advisable.
5	(ii) Hearing procedures and re-
6	SPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—
7	(I) Announcement.—The co-
8	chairs of the Fiscal Commission shall
9	make a public announcement of the
10	date, place, time, and subject matter
11	of any hearing to be conducted under
12	this subparagraph not later than 7
13	days before the date of the hearing,
14	unless the co-chairs determine that
15	there is good cause to begin such
16	hearing on an earlier date.
17	(II) Written statement.—A
18	witness appearing before the Fiscal
19	Commission shall file a written state-
20	ment of the proposed testimony of the
21	witness not later than 2 days before
22	the date of the appearance of the wit-
23	ness, unless the co-chairs of the Fiscal
24	Commission—

1	(aa) determine that there is
2	good cause for the witness to not
3	file the written statement; and
4	(bb) waive the requirement
5	that the witness file the written
6	statement.
7	(iii) Hearing requirements.—The
8	Fiscal Commission shall hold not less than
9	6 hearings under this subparagraph, which
10	shall include—
11	(I) field hearings through the
12	Nation;
13	(II) hearings to solicit testimony
14	from appropriate officials of the exec-
15	utive branch; and
16	(III) hearings to solicit testimony
17	from Members of Congress (in this
18	subclause defined as a member of the
19	Senate or the House of Representa-
20	tives, a Delegate to the House of Rep-
21	resentatives, and the Resident Com-
22	missioner from Puerto Rico).
23	(G) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CON-
24	SULTATION.—Upon written request of the co-
25	chairs of the Fiscal Commission, the head of a

1	Federal agency (including legislative branch
2	agencies) shall provide technical assistance to,
3	and consult with, the Fiscal Commission in
4	order for the Fiscal Commission to carry out
5	their duties.
6	(H) Outside expert.—Any outside ex-
7	pert appointed to the Fiscal Commission—
8	(i) shall not be considered to be a
9	Federal employee for any purpose by rea-
10	son of service on the Fiscal Commission;
11	and
12	(ii) shall be allowed travel expenses,
13	including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
14	at rates authorized for employees of agen-
15	cies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of
16	title 5, United States Code, while away
17	from their homes or regular places of busi-
18	ness in the performance of services for the
19	Commission.
20	(b) Staff of Fiscal Commission.—
21	(1) In general.—The co-chairs of the Fiscal
22	Commission may jointly appoint and fix the com-
23	pensation of staff of the Fiscal Commission as the
24	co-chairs determine necessary, in accordance with

1	the guidelines, rules, and requirements relating to
2	employees of the Senate.
3	(2) ETHICAL STANDARDS.—
4	(A) Senate.—Members appointed by
5	Members of the Senate who serve on the Fiscal
6	Commission and staff of the Fiscal Commission
7	shall adhere to the ethics rules of the Senate.
8	(B) House of Representatives.—Mem-
9	bers appointed by Members of the House of
10	Representatives who serve on the Fiscal Com-
11	mission shall be governed by the ethics rules
12	and requirements of the House of Representa-
13	tives.
14	(c) TERMINATION.—The Fiscal Commission shall ter-
15	minate on the date that is 30 days after the date the Fis-
16	cal Commission submits the report under subsection
17	(a)(2)(B)(v).
18	SEC. 4. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF IMPLEMENTING
19	BILLS.
20	(a) Qualifying Legislation.—Only an imple-
21	menting bill shall be entitled to expedited consideration
22	under this section.
23	(b) Consideration in the House of Represent-
24	ATIVES.—

1	(1) Introduction.—If the Fiscal Commission
2	approves and submits legislative language under
3	clauses (i) and (v), respectively, of section
4	3(a)(2)(B), the implementing bill consisting solely of
5	that legislative language shall be introduced in the
6	House of Representatives (by request)—
7	(A) by the majority leader of the House of
8	Representatives, or by a Member of the House
9	of Representatives designated by the majority
10	leader of the House of Representatives, on the
11	third legislative day after the date the Fiscal
12	Commission approves and submits such legisla-
13	tive language; or
14	(B) if the implementing bill is not intro-
15	duced under subparagraph (A), by any Member
16	of the House of Representatives on any legisla-
17	tive day beginning on the legislative day after
18	the legislative day described in subparagraph
19	(A).
20	(2) Referral and reporting.—Any com-
21	mittee of the House of Representatives to which an
22	implementing bill is referred shall report the imple-
23	menting bill to the House of Representatives without
24	amendment not later than 5 legislative days after
25	the date on which the implementing bill was so re-

ferred. If any committee of the House of Representatives to which an implementing bill is referred fails to report the implementing bill within that period, that committee shall be automatically discharged from consideration of the implementing bill, and the implementing bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) Proceeding to consideration.—After the last committee authorized to consider an implementing bill reports it to the House of Representatives or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the implementing bill in the House of Representatives. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed with respect to the implementing bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

(4) Considered as read. All points of order against the implementing bill and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the implementing bill to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours

- of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.
 - (5) Vote on Passage.—The vote on passage of the implementing bill shall occur pursuant to the constraints under clause 8 of rule XX of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(c) Expedited Procedure in the Senate.—

- (1) Introduction in the senate.—On the day on which an implementing bill is submitted to the Senate under section 3(a)(2)(B)(v), the implementing bill shall be introduced, by request, by the majority leader of the Senate for himself or herself and the minority leader of the Senate, or by any Member so designated by them. If the Senate is not in session on the day on which such implementing bill is submitted, it shall be introduced as provided on the first day thereafter on which the Senate is in session. Such implementing bill shall be placed on the Calendar of Business under General Orders.
- (2) PROCEEDING.—Notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order, not later than 2 days of session after the date on which an implementing bill is placed on the Calendar, for the majority leader of the Senate or the designee of the majority leader to move to proceed

1 to the consideration of the implementing bill. It shall 2 also be in order for any Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the consideration of the imple-3 menting bill at any time after the conclusion of such 2-day period. A motion to proceed is in order even 5 6 though a previous motion to the same effect has 7 been disagreed to. All points of order against the 8 motion to proceed to the implementing bill are 9 waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A mo-10 11 tion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is 12 agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the im-13 14 plementing bill is agreed to, it shall remain the un-15 finished business until disposed of. All points of 16 order against the implementing bill and against its 17 consideration are waived. 18 (3) NO AMENDMENTS.—An amendment to the 19 implementing bill, a motion to postpone, a motion to 20 proceed to the consideration of other business, or a 21 motion to commit the implementing bill is not in 22 order. 23 (4) Rulings of the chair on procedure.— 24 Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to

the application of the rules of the Senate, as the

25

1	case may be, to the procedure relating to an imple-
2	menting bill shall be decided without debate.
3	(d) AMENDMENT.—An implementing bill shall not be
4	subject to amendment in either the Senate or the House
5	of Representatives.
6	(e) Consideration by the Other House.—
7	(1) In general.—If, before passing an imple-
8	menting bill, one House receives from the other
9	House an implementing bill consisting solely of the
10	text of the implementing bill approved by the Fiscal
11	Commission—
12	(A) the implementing bill of the other
13	House shall not be referred to a committee; and
14	(B) the procedure in the receiving House
15	shall be the same as if no implementing bill had
16	been received from the other House until the
17	vote on passage, when the implementing bill re-
18	ceived from the other House shall supplant the
19	implementing bill of the receiving House.
20	(2) REVENUE MEASURES.—This subsection
21	shall not apply to the House of Representatives if an
22	implementing bill received from the Senate is a rev-
23	enue measure.
24	(f) Rules to Coordinate Action With Other
25	House.—

	_~
1	(1) Treatment of implementing bill of
2	OTHER HOUSE.—If an implementing bill is not intro-
3	duced in the Senate or the Senate fails to consider
4	an implementing bill under this section, the imple-
5	menting bill of the House of Representatives con-
6	sisting of legislative language approved by the same
7	Fiscal Commission as the implementing bill in the
8	Senate shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures
9	under this section.
10	(2) Treatment of companion measures in
11	THE SENATE.—If, following passage of an imple-
12	menting bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives
13	from the House of Representatives an implementing
14	bill consisting of the same text as the Senate-passed
15	implementing bill, the House-passed implementing
16	bill shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of
17	the implementing bill in the Senate shall be consid-
18	ered to be the vote on passage of the implementing
19	bill received from the House of Representatives.
20	(3) Vetoes.—If the President vetoes an imple-
21	menting bill, consideration of a veto message in the
22	Senate under this paragraph shall be 10 hours
22	

1 SEC. 5. FUNDING.

2	Funding for the Fiscal Commission shall be derived
3	in equal portions from—
4	(1) the contingent fund of the Senate from the
5	appropriations account "Miscellaneous Items", sub-
6	ject to the rules and regulations of the Senate; and
7	(2) the applicable accounts of the House of
8	Representatives.
9	SEC. 6. RULEMAKING.
10	The provisions of this Act are enacted by Congress—
11	(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
12	the Senate and the House of Representatives, re-
13	spectively, and, as such, the provisions—
14	(A) shall be considered as part of the rules
15	of each House, respectively, or of that House to
16	which they specifically apply; and
17	(B) shall supersede other rules only to the
18	extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and
19	(2) with full recognition of the constitutional
20	right of either House to change such rules (so far
21	as relating to such House) at any time, in the same
22	manner, and to the same extent as in the case of
23	any other rule of such House.

